

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reexamination of the captioned application is respectfully requested.

A. SUMMARY OF THIS AMENDMENT

By the current amendment, Applicants basically:

1. Cancel claims 3 and 6 without prejudice or disclaimer.
2. Amend claims 1, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10, 19, 35, 36 and 47.
3. Respectfully traverse all prior art rejections.
4. Advise the Examiner of the simultaneous filing of a Petition to Extend.

B. PATENTABILITY OF THE CLAIMS

Claims 1, 3-9, 12, 13, 15, 17, 19, 22, 23, 25, 31, 32, 35-37, 39-42, 47 and 49 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,468,942 to Oosterveen et al. Claims 2, 10, 11, 18, 33, 43 and 50 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 5,468,942 to Oosterveen et al. Claims 1-19, 21-37 and 39-50 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 5,468,942 to Oosterveen et al in view of U.S. Patent 5,696,366 to Ziarno. Claims 21, 24 and 26 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 5,468,942 to Oosterveen et al in view of U.S. Patent 5,397,882 to Van Solt. Claims 29, 30, 44-46 and 48 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 5,468,942 to Oosterveen et al in view of U.S. Patent 6,640,214 to Nambudiri et al. All prior art rejections are respectfully traversed for at least the following reasons.

As now amended, independent claims 1, 19, 35, 36 and 47 incorporate the subject matter of claims 3 and 6. Specifically, these claims now essentially recite, among other features, that the compartments for the terminals comprises a lower discharge aperture

below an upper terminal insertion aperture and that these compartments are designed so as to require an oblique arrangement of the terminal therein.

These features are neither anticipated nor suggested by Oosterveen and the other prior art documents cited by the Examiner.

Oosterveen discloses a dispensing device comprising a plurality of accommodating cavities 40 for hand scanners formed on a plurality of holders 10. Fig. 3 of Oosterveen shows in detail one such cavity 40. From Fig. 3 it is clear that the cavities 40 are not provided with a lower discharge aperture. The Examiner alleged that Fig. 3 of Oosterveen shows "*a smaller, sub aperture near element 41*" which, in the Examiner's opinion, anticipates the claimed lower service aperture. The Examiner is probably referring to the aperture from which the lug 41 and contact 42 extend into the cavity 40. However, the Applicant has now specified in the claims that the lower service aperture is a discharge aperture. Clearly, the aperture from which the lug 41 and contact 42 extend are not identifiable as a discharge aperture.

In view of the above, claim 1 is not disclosed or suggested by Oosterveen.

None of the other applied prior art documents cited by the Examiner discloses a dispensing device comprising a plurality of compartments wherein each compartment is provided with a lower discharge aperture.

The structure of Applicant's claims 1, 19, 35, 36 and 47 includes compartments having a lower discharge aperture. The lower discharge aperture allows the discharge of small objects that may accidentally be inserted into the compartment, and also prevents dust from being gathered inside the compartment. Said discharge is facilitated by the oblique insertion axis of the terminal into the compartments (see page 8, lines 7-16 of the application as originally filed).

None of applied prior art documents addresses this problem. Specifically, none of the applied prior art documents, when taken alone or in combination with any other cited prior art documents, suggests that a compartment be provided with a lower discharge aperture to allow the discharge of small objects that may be accidentally inserted into the compartment. Therefore, claims 1, 19, 35, 36 and 47 as now amended are inventive over the applied prior art.

C. MISCELLANEOUS

In view of the foregoing and other considerations, all claims are deemed in condition for allowance. A formal indication of allowability is earnestly solicited.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge the undersigned's deposit account #14-1140 in whatever amount is necessary for entry of these papers and the continued pendency of the captioned application.

Should the Examiner feel that an interview with the undersigned would facilitate allowance of this application, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,
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